

04 MAY 2001

Ghani-Electricity

JOHOR'S POWER SUPPLY WOES TO END NEXT YEAR

PASIR GUDANG, May 4 (Bernama) -- The problem of electricity supply disruptions in 44 locations in Johor will be resolved by next year, Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman said today.

"Twenty-four locations, including the interior areas of Mersing and Segamat districts and four islands, are expected to have their power supply problem settled this year," he told reporters after the launch of the TNB housing scheme here.

Abdul Ghani said the state government had allocated RM10.2 million to overcome the problem of power failures in these areas.

Of this amount, RM2 million was for 24 locations which would get uninterrupted power supply this year, he said.

The balance of the allocation would be for solving the problem in another 20 locations next year, he said.

At the ceremony, Abdul Ghani held a tele-conference with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who was visiting the TNB headquarters in Bangsar, Kuala Lumpur.

Asked on the TNB housing scheme, Abdul Ghani said 115 units of houses would be built for TNB staff working in Johor Baharu and Pasir Gudang.

Meanwhile, Abdul Ghani welcomed the federal government's move to allow foreigners to buy all types of properties costing more than RM250,000 each.

"The state government is hopeful that the easing of conditions for property ownership by foreigners will boost the high-end property sector in this state," he said.

He said Johor had unsold upmarket properties worth more than RM1.7 billion, accounting for 24 per cent of such property overhang at the national level.

"I believe many people from our neighbouring country (Singapore) will take this opportunity to invest in Johor because previously only commercial and residential properties costing above RM350,000 can be bought by foreigners," he said.

-- BERNAMA

RAM YBY